

We claim:

1. A body tissue cutting device comprising:

5 a handle section and a first and second grasping arms extending from the handle section, said first and second grasping arms being resiliently mounted to the handle ^{such} to allow closure of the grasping arms by hand, said first and second grasping arms each having a distal end with a grasping face, said grasping face on each grasping arm aligned to meet the grasping face of the other grasping arm upon closure of the grasping arms;

10 a wire disposed upon the grasping face of the first grasping arm so that it lies between the grasping face of the first grasping arm and the grasping face of the second grasping arm upon closure of the grasping arms, said wire being operably connected to a source of electrical power; said wire being secured to the distal end of the first grasping arm and extending proximally over the grasping face of the first grasping arm toward the proximal end of the first grasping arm.

2. The device of claim 1 further comprising:

25 a resilient surface on the grasping face of the first grasping arm, between the wire and the grasping face of the arm.

3. The device of claim 1 further comprising:

30 a sleeve covering the distal end of the first grasping arm, thereby forming a surface on the grasping face of the second grasping arm, said sleeve being separated from the distal end of the first grasping arm by a small fluid-filled gap.

4. The device of claim 1 further comprising:

a resilient sleeve covering the distal end of the second grasping arm, thereby forming a resilient surface on the grasping face of the second grasping arm.

5 5. The device of claim 1 further comprising:

a resilient surface on the grasping face of each of the first and second grasping arms.

6. The device of claim 1 further comprising:

10 a sleeve covering the distal end of the first grasping arm, thereby forming a surface on the grasping face of the first grasping arm, between the wire and the grasping face of the arm, said sleeve being distanced from the distal end by a small fluid-filled gap.

15 a resilient sleeve covering the distal end of the second grasping arm, thereby forming a resilient surface on the grasping face of the second grasping arm.

7. The device of claim 1 wherein the grasping arms comprise a pair of tweezers.

20 8. The device of claim 1 wherein the grasping arms comprise a forceps.

9. A medical device comprising:

25 a pair of tweezers characterized by a first arm and a second arm, each of said arm having a proximal end and distal end, said first arm having a first gripping face disposes on the distal end thereof, said second arm having second gripping face disposes on the distal end thereof, said gripping faces being defining surfaces generally perpendicular to a plane defined by the grasping arms, said surfaces being movable into

apposition with each other upon closing of the tweezers;

a first layer of resilient material disposed on the gripping face of the first arm;

5 a second layer of resilient material disposed on the gripping face of the second arm;

a wire disposed between of the first and second layers of resilient material so as to be trapped between the gripping faces of the first and second arm upon 10 closing of the tweezers.

10. A medical device comprising:

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15 a pair of forceps characterized by a first arm and a second arm, each of said arm having a proximal end and distal end, each of said arm being rotatably fixed to the other at a midpoint thereof, said first arm having a first gripping face disposes on the distal end thereof, said second arm having second gripping face disposes on the distal end thereof, said gripping faces being defining surfaces generally perpendicular to a plane defined by the grasping arms, said surfaces being movable into apposition with each other upon 20 closing of the forceps;

a first layer of resilient material disposed on the gripping face of the first arm;

25 a second layer of resilient material disposed on the gripping face of the second arm;

a wire disposed between of the first and second layers of resilient material so as to be trapped between the gripping faces of the first and second arm upon 30 closing of the forceps.

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11. A medical device comprising:

a laparoscopic grasper characterized by a first arm and a second arm, each of said arm having a proximal end and distal end, each of said arm being rotatably relative to the other about a point near the distal end thereof, said arms being adapted to be inserted into the body and to be rotatably opened and closed upon each other within the body, said first arm having a first gripping face disposed on the distal end thereof, said second arm having second gripping face disposed on the distal end thereof, said gripping faces being defining surfaces generally perpendicular to a plane defined by the grasping arms, said surfaces being movable into apposition with each other upon closing of the graspers;

a first layer of resilient material disposed on the gripping face of the first arm;

a second layer of resilient material disposed on the gripping face of the second arm;

a wire disposed between of the first and second layers of resilient material so as to be trapped between the gripping faces of the first and second arm upon closing of the graspers.